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given for advanced work to Bachelors of Arts, and the S.D., and since last year the S.M., to Bachelors of Science. The S.D. is given for exactly the same, scientific research and study as the Ph.D., and means the same thing, except that it is in addition a certificate of a poor preparatory education. It is no wonder that it is not popular, having been awarded only once in the past three years, while the Ph.D. has been awarded sixty-nine times. If a student comes to Harvard from a Western university, having studied Latin throughout his college course and received a Ph.B., he is apparently not eligible for the Ph.D. What would be done with a student coming with the A.B. from Cornell, but never having studied Latin, I do not know. The maintenance at Harvard of the S.M. and S.D. as second-rate degrees appears to be a needless limitation of the usefulness of its graduate school, and a wounding of science in the house of its friends.

J. McKEEN CATTELL.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT.

WE have received notice of civil service examinations as follows:

On May 9th for Assistant Chief, Division of Agrostology, Department of Agriculture. (Salary \$1,800 per annum.) The subjects and weights are as follows:

1. Agrostology.....	60
2. Replies to letters on agrostology.....	10
3. German and French translation.....	10
4. Botany (major), or Chemistry (minor), (See Section 67, 'Assistants, Department of Agriculture, Departmental Service,' page 45 of the Manual of Examinations, revised to January 1, 1899).....	20

At the same time an examination will be held for the position of Assistant in the Division of Agrostology at a salary of \$1,200. The subjects and weights being :

1. Agrostology.	50
2. Translation from one foreign language (Spanish, French, German, or Italian).....	15
3. Latin translation	5
4. Botany (minor), (See section 67, 'Assistants, Department of Agriculture, Departmental Service,'	

page 35 of the Manual of Examinations, revised to January 1, 1899).....15

5. Education and experience15

On May 1st an eligible register will be established for the position of Irrigation Expert, office of Experiment Stations, Department of Agriculture, at a salary of \$2,500 per annum. Subjects and weights are as follows :

1. A statement of the education, training and technical experience of the competitor.....30

2. A statement of the competitor's experience as an administrative officer, with special reference to irrigation laws and regulations.....30

3. A thesis of not less than three thousand words on a topic relating to irrigation20

4. A statement of not more than three thousand words setting forth a plan of irrigation investigations in the arid regions of the United States for the benefit of the farmers of those regions.....20

It will not be necessary for applicants to appear at any place for examination, but the statements and theses required may be prepared by the competitors at their homes upon forms which will be furnished by the United States Civil Service Commission upon request. Competitors will be required to furnish sworn statements as to the integrity of the work submitted by them.

Under similar conditions and on the same day an eligible register will be established for the position of tobacco expert to the Department of Agriculture. The subjects and weights are as follows :

1. Experience, including complete statement of personal experience in connection with the development of the tobacco industry of Florida.....30

2. Administrative ability, including a full statement of personal experience in the administration of work connected with the growth, purchase, manipulation and marketing of the Florida tobacco.....30

3. Two theses, of two thousand to four thousand words in length, on subjects relating to the tobacco industry.....40

On May 9th and 10th an examination will be held for the position of computor in the Nautical Almanac office, the subjects and weights being :

1. Algebra15

2. Geometry.....10

3. Plane and spherical astronomy.....20

4. Elements of differential and integral calculus 10

5. Logarithms	25
6. Spherical astronomy.....	20

Further information regarding these positions and blanks for applications may be obtained from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE National Academy of Sciences will hold its stated annual meeting, beginning on Tuesday, April 18th.

AT the annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific on March 25th the second award of its Bruce Gold Medal was announced. It was conferred upon Dr. Arthur Auwers, of Berlin.

SIR WILLIAM TURNER, professor of anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, has been elected President of the British Association for the Bradford meeting of 1900.

IT is announced that Mr. Llewellyn W. Longstaff, a member of the Royal Geographical Society of London, has contributed \$125,000 towards the fund for the British Antarctic expedition.

DR. L. L. HUBBARD has resigned the position of State Geologist of Michigan. The *American Geologist* states that he has taken this action owing to the delay of the State Board of Auditors in authorizing the publication of the Reports of the Survey.

DR. E. V. WILLCOX has resigned his position as zoologist and entomologist in the Montana Agricultural College and Station to accept a position in the office of Experiment Stations in the place of Dr. F. C. Kenyon, resigned. Dr. Willcox will have charge of the departments of zoology, entomology and veterinary science of the *Experiment Station Record*.

MR. LE GRAND POWERS, of Minnesota, has been appointed Chief Statistician in charge of agricultural statistics, and Mr. William C. Hunt, of Massachusetts, has been given charge of the statistics of population in the twelfth census. Mr. Hunt held the same position in the census of 1890. Mr. Powers is Chief of the Minnesota Bureau of Labor.

M. FILHOL has been elected an associate of the Paris Academy of Medicine in the place of

the late Dr. Worms. M. Filhol is a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and has published important memoirs in anatomy, zoology and paleontology.

PROFESSOR LUIGI CREMONA, professor of mathematics at the University of Rome, and Professor Alexander Karpinski, St. Petersburg, Director of the Russian Geological Survey, have been elected foreign members of the Belgian Academy of Sciences.

DR. T. GRIGOR BRODIE, lecturer on physiology at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, has been nominated by the Laboratories Committee of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to be Director of the Research Laboratories on the Thames Embankment.

MR. E. E. GREEN, the well-known Ceylon entomologist, has been appointed Government Entomologist on the staff of the Agricultural Department of that island, with residence at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. He is about to visit England, and will return to Ceylon to take up his work about September. For many years Mr. Green has been doing admirable work on the insects of Ceylon, with especial regard to injurious species, and a better selection could not have been made for the new position.

DR. WALTER R. HARPER, of Sydney, New South Wales, starts this month on a trip in the New Hebrides to investigate the somatology and folk-lore of that group. We are informed by him that the museums of Australia, although new, have already secured some remarkable collections representative of Australian ethnology. The museum at Sydney, under the curatorship of R. Etheridge, and the one at Adelaide in charge of Dr. Stirling, are especially good owing to the interest of their curators in ethnology. Lately the Western government sent a collecting party into the interior under the leadership of Mr. Alex. Morton, Curator of the Tasmanian Museum. This expedition was successful and secured among other things a series of carved bull-roarers, which are sacred objects there. Lack of funds hampers the work in Australia as elsewhere, and the field is yet largely unknown. Much valuable material remains to be investigated even in the Eastern